

NATURAL GAS CONSERVATION

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, demand for natural gas is expected to rise by as much as 50 percent over the next 25 years. Currently the Nation's inventory of natural gas lags behind past inventories of the popular fuel, and rising demand illustrates the need for consumers to become mindful of energy use.

During a press conference yesterday, Secretary Abraham unveiled the Department's new energy saver Web site, www.energysavers.gov. From tips on insulating a home, to heating and cooling, to buying new windows, the Web site serves as a consumer resource to start cutting home energy prices.

In addition, a number of energy associations such as the Alliance to Save Energy, the American Public Power Association, the American Gas Association and the Edison Electric Institute have teamed up with the Department to further educate their members and consumers in methods to help save electricity and in turn positively affect our Nation's natural gas supply situation.

I encourage my constituents, as well as Members, to review this material on this Web site as it provides a number of useful tips for consumers to begin to reduce their energy use and in turn lower their annual costs as we work to address the supply needs for this country.

WHY DID THE U.S. GO TO WAR AGAINST IRAQ?

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, why did the U.S. go to war against Iraq? The day after 9/11, according to this book, Secretary Rumsfeld raised the possibility that the administration could take advantage of the opportunity offered by the terrorist attacks to go after Saddam immediately. This, even though there was no evidence connecting Iraq to 9/11.

Why did the U.S. go to war against Iraq? On September 18, 2002, Mr. Rumsfeld told Congress, "Hussein has at this moment stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons and is pursuing nuclear weapons." There was no evidence of that either.

Why did the U.S. go to war against Iraq? Yesterday Mr. Rumsfeld told Congress it was not because we had discovered dramatic new evidence of Iraq's pursuit of weapons of mass destruction. "We acted because we saw the evidence in a dramatic new light through the prism of our experience on 9/11."

Why did the U.S. go to war against Iraq? 9/11 was an excuse, no imminent threat, no weapons of mass destruction.

Now, the administration keeps changing its story, but they cannot change the facts. They led this Nation into war against a Nation that had not attacked us, that had no intention or capability of attacking us. Congress must hold public hearings because the truth and our democracy is at stake.

CONGRATULATING MERCY HOSPITAL AND RECOGNIZING TERESA A. ZUBIZARRETA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mercy Hospital, located in my congressional district, for its recent fund-raiser to help the destitute.

I would also like to recognize Teresa A. Zubizarreta, Zubi, the 2003 Mercy Foundation Gala honoree. Zubi is a beautiful example of someone who has overcome tremendous adversity to achieve the American dream.

After fleeing the horrors of the Castro regime in 1960, Zubi has risen to own one of the most successful advertising agencies in our country. As president of Zubi Advertising, one of the Nation's top five Hispanic advertising agencies, she serves as an inspiration to Hispanic women as to what one can accomplish through hard work and unwavering dedication.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in thanking Teresa Zubizarreta and the Mercy Foundation for their profound contributions to our south Florida community.

PROVIDING A CHILD TAX CREDIT

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, in yesterday's testimony, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld noted that our reconstruction costs, providing health care, education, transportation and housing needs in Iraq have cost the American taxpayers \$2.3 billion, and projected over the year, \$2.3 billion, that is equal to the amount we could provide in a child tax credit to the 12 million children, the 6½ million Americans who were left out of the tax cut the last time we provided a tax cut.

In the middle of July, the first set of tax cuts will begin to hit the mailboxes all over America, and yet 12 million children of American families, 6½ million families of working parents who get up every day to provide for their children and do right will not get a tax cut. Now we are going to be providing the same amount of dollars for Iraq's reconstruction, for their housing, their health care, their education, for their children's future.

I would hope that before we go home for our August break and our summer break to be with our families, our con-

stituents and our neighbors that we would provide these working American families the same types of educational opportunities, the same type of economic security, that tax cut and an economic interest we are providing Iraq.

MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM IS IN PERIL

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a great concern about a development that occurred here on the Hill. Yesterday the failure to close debate on medical liability reform, the important legislation that this body passed in March to address this crisis, is in peril.

The House passed H.R. 5 to control the unsustainable medical liability premium increases and preserve patient access to important medical specialists. Based on a 1975 California law that has held down premium increases in that State, H.R. 5 would place a cap on noneconomic damages in medical liability cases.

This bill would not limit access to the courthouse. This bill would not limit damages to those who have been injured by negligent actions. This bill would not reward bad doctors. This bill would not protect HMOs.

This bill will increase access to important specialists such as neurosurgeons, perinatologists and trauma surgeons. This bill will return a degree of sanity to a system that now resembles a Las Vegas gaming device.

Today the trauma network in the Dallas-Fort Worth area is on the brink of crisis as good doctors are driven from the practice by increasing liability premiums. Mr. Speaker, how could they do that?

WHY ARE PEOPLE CONTINUING TO DIE IN IRAQ?

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, on May 1, the Commander in Chief of the United States military forces declared the war was over. Since that day, 65 people have died. The last three who died were Craig Boling, Elkhart, Indiana; Barry Sanford, Aurora, Colorado; Robert McKinley, Kokomo, Indiana.

Huge questions have arisen about whether we were misled about this war. In Great Britain, the Prime Minister, Mr. Blair, faced 2 hours of questioning by the British Parliament. It is time for this Congress to have a bipartisan select committee to look into the reasons why we are in Iraq and why people continue to die there.

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We must not let them be forgotten, as they were in my era of the Vietnam